

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003

HCR 1019

4
5 By: Representative Lendall

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8 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 EXPRESSING THE CONCERN OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
10 THAT THE FOOD SUPPLY IN THIS STATE HAS BEEN
11 PLACED AT RISK BY THE INTRODUCTION OF
12 NONTHERAPEUTIC ANTIBIOTICS IN ANIMAL FEED WITH
13 THE INCREASING DANGER THAT RESISTANT STRAINS OF
14 BACTERIA MAY PASS FROM ANIMALS TO HUMANS.

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16 **Subtitle**

17 EXPRESSING THE CONCERN OF THE GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY THAT THE FOOD SUPPLY IN THIS
19 STATE HAS BEEN PLACED AT RISK BY THE
20 INTRODUCTION OF NONTHERAPEUTIC
21 ANTIBIOTICS IN ANIMAL FEED.

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24 WHEREAS, many drugs used to treat humans also end up in livestock feed,
25 including amoxicillin, ampicillin, erythromycin, neomycin, penicillin and
26 tetracycline; and

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28 WHEREAS, according to the United States Food and Drug Administration,
29 national and international health organizations have seen evidence that use
30 of antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals could lead to the emergence
31 of drug-resistant bacteria that can harm humans; and

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33 WHEREAS, salmonella and campylobacter can exist in the digestive tract
34 of food-producing animals without causing illness, but people can suffer
35 severe illness after consuming these bacteria in meat, milk or egg; and
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1 WHEREAS, in 1997, the World Health Organization recommended that the
2 use of any antimicrobial agent for growth promotion in animals be terminated
3 if it is used in human therapies or known to select for cross-resistance to
4 antimicrobials used in human medicine; and

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6 WHEREAS, use of antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals may lead
7 to the emergence of bacterial pathogens that are resistant to drugs used to
8 treat human illness, potentially making human illnesses more difficult to
9 treat,

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12 NOW, THEREFORE,

13 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN,

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16 That the General Assembly urges farmers in Arkansas to reduce and
17 eventually eliminate the use of nontherapeutic antibiotics in animal feed.

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that:

20 (1) No new antibiotics should be approved for agricultural use unless
21 the drug sponsor can provide convincing evidence that the use of the drug in
22 this manner presents no appreciable risk to human health;

23 (2) Sub-therapeutic use of antibiotics in farm animals should be
24 phased out as rapidly as possible, unless the drug sponsor can provide
25 convincing evidence that the use of the antibiotic in question presents no
26 appreciable risk to human health;

27 (3) Agricultural use of antibiotics should be limited to short-term
28 use under the care of a licensed veterinarian unless the drug sponsor can
29 show that the antibiotic in question is not used in human populations, is not
30 medically related to such drugs, and does not select for multi-drug
31 resistance in bacteria; and

32 (4) Information about alternatives to the use of antibiotics to
33 maintain livestock health and growth rates should be developed and
34 disseminated among the agricultural and veterinary community.

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of Arkansas Cooperative

1 Extension Service is requested to create a program for tracking the use of
2 nontherapeutic antibiotics in animal feed, for analyzing the affect on those
3 antibiotics on animals and humans, and educating the public regarding the
4 danger of nontherapeutic antibiotics in animal feed.

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